

Newcastle Bridge Club

Special General Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Saturday 10th December 2016

Time of Meeting: Meeting commenced at 12:00noon.

In attendance: 46 members, see attached Attendance Register.

1. Apologies: K Cruise, E Di Stefano, T Di Stefano and I Walker.

2. Opening statement: The President, Jeff Biddlecombe, welcomed attendees and provided the background as to the calling of the special meeting. The meeting had been requested to vote on the resolution:

"that the decision to only display on Bridgemate units the percentage achieved as each board is scored rather than the result of all scores recorded for that board as approved at the 2016 Annual General Meeting be rescinded."

He explained that on behalf of the members Brigitta Kuegler would be presenting the case for the resolution and that Paul McGrath would speak against the resolution. He would then get the members to indicate their decision on the voting slips provided.

3. Case for the resolution: Brigitta thanked members for their attendance at the meeting. She then succinctly made several points as to why she and her supporters believed that the display on the Bridgemate units should be changed to show board contracts as well as percentage results. Those points included:

- 3.1. make full use of the information that the units could display;
- 3.2. noise level discussion about the results were no louder than when units were not used for scoring;
- 3.3. novice players gained advantage from seeing other contracts bid for specific boards.

The meeting by acclamation showed its appreciation of Brigitta's presentation.

4 Case against the resolution: Paul outlined the case against the resolution. His points included:

- 4.1 the consequences of disclosing unauthorised information by players discussing board results and the detrimental effect it can have on members being able to enjoy their bridge;
- 4.2 as an example he quoted from a recent article in the November 2016 Issue of Australia Bridge Magazine where the author had lost an important tournament by virtue of their team members receiving unauthorised information;
- 4.3 inadvertent entry of board numbers could lead to display of results for a board not yet played;
- 4.4 early results shown on the units are meaningless until a representative number have been entered;
- 4.5 the issues in 4.1 would put an unnecessary onus on the Club's directors who are volunteers and wishing to enjoy their bridge and not be involved in handing out unpopular penalties.

Paul's presentation also received appreciation by member's acclamation.

5 Closing remarks: Jeff thanked the presenters for clearly stating their cases. He did not wish to prolong the meeting but invited any other attendee to cover issues that they thought may not have been covered. There was no response to that offer. Instead, the members chose to proceed to the vote.

He emphasised that whatever the outcome of the vote that the decision should be accepted by everyone and that the matter now be closed.

6 Outcome: Member's votes on the slips provided were collected and counted. Initially the votes were **18 for** and **25 against** with **3 abstentions**. Proxy votes were checked that no appointees were at the meeting and that their proxy holders were at the meeting. When those two checks had been confirmed the proxy votes were added to the votes of attendees.

The final outcome of the vote was:

For the resolution, **60 votes** **Against** the resolution, **121 votes**.

Accordingly the resolution was declared as being defeated.

Meeting concluded at 12:30pm.

Confirmed to be a true record of the meeting.